IRIS J. JOHNSON

The SUMMIT

A Book for Daily Meditation

$5.95

THE SUMMIT
A Book for Daily Meditation

by Iris J. Johnson

The Summit: A Book of Meditation, by Iris J. Johnson, is a collection of poems that will be long remembered (and often quoted) for their gentle message of faith; their simple trust in the Lord; and their spiritual power. The only way to acquaint the reader with that spiritual power is to let Mrs. Johnson's poetry speak for itself, as in "Being":

"'God created man in His own image—
In His own image created He him.'
How, then, can I hide anything from God?
My Heavenly Father knows the very depth of
my thought, even before it comes into my mind.
How necessary it is for me, then, to serve Him well,
And be what He would like me to be—
For He knows my very being."

Each poem in this insightful collection is a gem—exquisitely carved and created by a spiritual soul. Yet, although each poem has a theme of its own, all the poetry in *The Summit* blends together to give us one enduring message—God is love. If we give ourselves over to Him, He will guide us to lead a life of piety, goodness, and sensitivity to all living things.

There is a yearning in Mrs. Johnson's poetry—a striving, a searching. Or as she says, a "thirst." For the thoughtful reader, there is comfort and hope to be found in

(Continued on back flap)

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A Book for Daily Meditation

by
Iris J. Johnson

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This book is dedicated to—

The furtherance of God's Kingdom;
my loving husband;
my family;
my friends;
and all the love that surrounds me.

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THE FARMER

The earth is a vineyard,
man the farmer
So, each one plants his seeds.

Some know how to tend the soil
before planting the seeds.
Some know how to tend the seeds
when they are in the ground.
The direction of one's life is the result
of the "How," and the "Kind"
of seeds planted

There are times when the weather
impedes the farmer's good planting.
So, too, in the midst of life,
There are circumstances that impede the
good planting of seeds in life's vineyard.
The abundance of life
is the harvest of the seeds planted.

ALL CREATURES ONE

God created the sun, the moon, and the stars—
the spangled heavens!
God created the earth, the trees, and the waters—
the spacious globe—
the firmament below and the firmament above!
thus God created

Are we not, then, one in creation?
Have we not all the same Father?
Then, are we not sisters and brothers
To all creation—
and in all substance
do we not live and move and have our being?
We are *one.*

THE UNSEEN FRIEND

Jesus walked alone in the Garden of Gethsamane
no friend—
a lonely and forsaken one.
suffering and alone—
He prayed!
He bled; He wore the scars and shame of sinners—
Though He Himself was sinless.

So softly and patiently He moved among
His one-time followers.
Yet now! Is it not now, even now
we are ignoring that still, soft voice?
How He walks with us, talks with us—
Yet, we will not even stop a while and say,
"yes, Lord what did you say?"

Still we reject and ignore our unseen friend.
Let us stop a while and listen when He speaks;
let us not ignore Him more,
for woe to him who is ignored
by our Unseen Friend.

THE FORM AND THE LIKENESS

The form of man is the form of God—
"and God created man in His own image
in His own likeness created He him,
and man became a living being."

The likeness of God became the likeness of man.
Man's naked eyes and visual senses
have not beheld his Creator—God—
but many have set their eyes on Jesus.

We do not believe—
we know without a doubt
that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
Therefore, man has seen the form
and the likeness of our God.

DISCOVERY!

If I did not cry,
I would not know to laugh.

If I did not know sorrow,
I would not know joy.

If I did not plant
I would not know to reap.

If I did not hurt
I would not know the power of healing.

If I did not eat,
I would not know to be filled.

If I did not pray,
I would not know the answer to my prayer.

If I did not seek,
I would not find.

If I did not love
I would not reap love in return.

Jesus said:
"Seek and ye shall find,
knock and it shall be opened unto you."
So, if I do not seek,
I will not find.
If I do not knock, the doors of heaven, with its peace and joy,
will not be opened unto me.

And, if this body does not die—change from obeying the devil,
then will I not know the spirtual joys of living.
If I do not disobey the devil,
then will I not know what it is to obey my God.

The discovery, then, is to rise from the death of the body—
and live! Live! Live the life of the spirit.

MY WITNESS

My dear friends,
I once was afraid—
but now I have courage.

I once was doubtful—
but now I am without doubt.

I once was careless of the way I speak—
but now I give thought before I speak.

I once was weak,
But now I am strong.

I once walked the road of the sinner—
But now I know I walk with God through His beloved
son, Jesus Christ, my Saviour.

I know that I shall nevermore walk a lonely path.
Though I cannot see him,
I know He walks with me.
His Holy Spirit tells me so
I will never walk alone.

GOD'S SANCTUARY

When I sit in Thy presence, oh Lord,
How can I but think on Thee?
Oh, let me put away the thoughts of worldy care,
and lift my spirit up to Thee!
Oh! Shout, thou soul of mine,
and praise thy God.

Put away all doubts and fears,
and in humility—
let my heart be more willing to cling to You, Lord.
Why should I fear, though the waves are towering high?
I stretch forth my hand,
oh, Living Master.

Sublimity be my goal,
praise be my pride,
be still, thou heart of mine, and listen to
thy Saviour's call—
through His Holy Spirit guiding.
Almighty Father,
Let me be able to say, "My Father,"
While I acknowledge and worship Thy holy name.

We worship Thee,
oh, we worship Thee,
Yes, we worship Thee—
oh, Living God, we worship thee,
in Thy presence, Lord
we worship Thee.

LOW TIDE

The spirit is likened as the tide
that ebbs and billows.
At times, the spirit is almost unconquerable
it is strong . . . it burns with the fire of determination—
with zeal and with hope,
Just as the tide that billows o'er the sand—
but alas! It ebbs like the tide that recedes,
that lowers its swiftness and its sound—
the spirit lacks hope, she sighs and is
without hope—is despondent.

There is no vigor, no fire burns.
It seems like there is just a flickering light
that can hardly light the way through the darkness—
oh, Master! Master!
Let not this low tide last—
let not the flickering light remain just a flicker
but let the low tide regain its vigor and its force.

Oh, Master, let the billows roar again.
Oh, low tide, please become billows once again.

THE POWER OF HEALING

Is there anyone who doubts God' healing power?
when Jesus walked on earth among men,
He healed the sick, cleansed the lepers,
opened the eyes of the blind—
and made the cripple walk again.

Before He ascended into heaven,
He told His disciples that greater things than these
will they do.

When the Holy Spirit shall descend
man will not see Jesus healing with the visible healing,
but does that mean that that healing power ended with His
ascension?

As He said, "Greater things than these will you do,"
so we see the doctors, who believe not in their own power,
but in the power of the Almighty, now use the power of healing.
through the knowledge of medicine.

From whence does that power come?
It is the same healing, the same power that comes to the doctors—
Jesus is healing still.
Though we cannot feel His touch, nor hear His voice when He says,
"Be healed," We know, without a doubt, that it is that same touch,
and that same voice that speaks through the doctors.

Through His chosen doctors He gives the power of healing—
the miracle still goes on.
Yes! The miracle still goes on,
if only we will believe—
the miracle still goes on.

A NEW CREATURE

Take a look at the caterpillar—
It is a ghastly creature,
so it is with sin!

Take a look at the butterfly—
so beautiful a creature
is the butterfly!
It is a magnificent creature—
so it is with walking in the path of righteousness.

It is a change from ugliness to beauty
so too, is the child of God.
A child of God becomes a beautifully new creature
when she or he changes from sin to righteousness,
he or she becomes
a new creature.

A CHOICE: THE FREE WILL

The first man of our creation . . . sinned!
Why did he sin?
He sinned because he had a free will—
    the will to choose what he wanted—
he chose to go the way of sin and death.

We, too, have a free will—
like Adam, which way will we choose?
Will we choose the way of sin, destruction, and death?

There is another way—
in order to choose, there must be more than one way—
there must be something of which to make a choice!

Will we choose the way of righteousness—
    the way that leads to life,
life that knows no ending,
life that knows no sadness?
We have a free will, and we have a choice—
for there are two conditions set before us.

The second way—the way of righteousness—
was set by the Saviour and Guide of all mankind!
Will we choose the way of righteousness—
the way that leads to life—
Life that knows no ending?
We have a free will, and
        the choice is ours to make—
If we want to die or *LIVE!*
The choice is ours to make.

FULL DIMENSION

What is *full?*
Full means "to its limits,"
"Holding all that it can contain,"
and, "leaving no vacancy."

What is *dimension?*
Dimension is "a measure in length, breadth, and thickness,
the quality of extension and scope and importance,
the magnitude of growth."
What then is *full dimension?*

All creatures grow—
grow in mind, in body, and in multitude
What of the creature with a soul?
this is the purpose of living—
the soul is to grow, grow, grow to its fullest dimension.

When the soul of man, feeding on the word of God,
grows and grows until it can no longer absorb
anymore of this life—
this, then, should be our goal,
this, then, is the purpose of living.

What is the purpose of living?
The purpose of living is to grow and grow,
until you reach—"a full dimension."

PEACE

My soul searches for thee
oh, peace that gives freedom,
peace that gives calm,
peace that gives rest to the troubled breast.

Come, let me know thee!
Come, let me welcome thee,
Come, let me cherish thee,
oh, come! Let me honor thee.

Come, let me find thee
Oh, how my soul searches for thee—
oh, peace!

THE WAY

Teach me the way, oh Lord,
and let me follow—
be Thou the Captain of my mind.

Whisper to me the way, oh Lord,
and let me follow—
be Thou the Light unto my heart.

Show me the way, oh Lord,
and let me follow,
be Thou the Pilot of my soul.

Then will I be confident,
Then will I be strong—
knowing, oh Lord,
That my way to Thee is clearly given—
that my way to Thee is truly
The Way.

SING PRAISES

Oh, praise, praise to Thee, oh God,
we worship Thee—
we praise Thee, oh God.
We acknowledge Thee,
we magnify Thy Holy Name—
we praise Thee, oh God.
Oh, Lord and our Redeemer,
we lift up our hearts to Thee, oh Lord.
Oh, praise Him in the highest—
praise Him, sun and moon.
Praise Him, all creatures great and small.
Praise him, stars and all heavens
praise him, wind and all the universe
praise the Lord!
Oh, my soul,
praise him!
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Praise the Lord, oh my soul!
Praise my Jesus—
praise the Lord, oh my soul.
The peace that comes to our souls
comes only through Thee
oh, Living Triune,
we praise Thee,
oh! We praise Thy holy name.

THE SIMPLE FACT

What is the simple fact?
Simple means "no complication, no ambiguity,"
but—"easy to understand and comprehend."

Fact is "truth"
the very truth itself—
truth that cannot be distorted or made anything other than
what it is. It remains unchanged.
No one is able to change that truth.

What, then, is the simple fact?
The simple fact is. . .
that Christ, Jesus our Lord,
took upon Himself the sin of all mankind—
though He Himself was sinless.
Because of this, He tasted death for all believers—
but He did not remain dead.
He rose from the dead—He broke the chains of
death and hell
on that first Easter morn,
to greet a new life.

The simple fact is . . . that
all who believe that Christ Jesus is the Son of the Living God,
and that He bore the sin and tasted death,
but rose from that death—
they, too, will rise from that death; and, that those
who do not believe,
will never rise again from that death—
but remain forever dead.

Those who rise again will live forever!
This then, is *the simple fact.*

OUT-STRETCHED ARMS

The outstretched arms on the cross,
encompassing the globe—
that old rugged cross . . .
the cross that points to all corners of the universe,
with those outstretched arms.

Let me bend beneath those arms,
so that I never fail to feel their shelter—
under the shadows of those outstretched arms
will I ever seek my refuge.

Where would I wish to go, beyond those outstretched arms?
Under those outstretched arms I find
rest on the desert of my life.
There is water to quench my thirsty soul,
there is ice to soothe my aching brow,
and there is peace to calm my troubled soul.

Those outstretched arms—
let me forever find repose and comfort
under those outstretched arms.

PRESUMPTION

My life! My life!
Who can say "my life" without presumption—
whose life is it?

It is not *my life;*
it is God's own life loaned to man!
This is why we should take care of God's property.

Do not spend it the way we want to spend it,
but spend it pleasingly and acceptably in God's sight.

Do not use it the way we want to use it,
but use it happily and lovingly in God's sight.

Do not live it in the way we want to live it,
but live it gratefully and hopefully in God's sight.

Be not presumptuous—
but acknowledge God's precious loan to man
with a thankful heart.

ASSURANCE

Precious Jesus,
precious Jesus—
we cannot hear You with our naked ears,
neither can we see You with our naked eyes.

We can still our hearts,
and listen to that still, small voice—
so calm and reassuring.

We cannot feel Your restraining hand
when You slow these pulsating hearts of ours down,
but, Thy word never fails.
And so, we have the assurance that You will never
leave us, nor forsake us—
this is our *assurance*.

ONE STEP

Moses saw the burning bush.
He said, "let me step aside and see how it is that
that fire is enveloping the bush, yet the bush does not burn."

Likewise, let me be curious to take one step,
and find out more about this Jesus, of whom, through
the ages, men, women and children alike have talked so much.
One step taken, and I have to take more and more—and more.

The flame grows stronger yet; the bush looks brighter . . . greener—
then will I have to take more and more and more steps, for yet
my curiosity grows greater and sharper
just one step—
that is all that it takes.
One step.

WHAT IS HAPPINESS?

When I see the smile in gratitude for helping someone,
When I hear the answer to my prayer,
When I feel that I have done the best I could,
When I taste the bread and wine,
When I smell the flowers of spring,
When I touch the upturned face of a child
When I know that I am loved,
When I think that the truth is my guide,
When I remember the Cross of calvary,
When I remember the empty tomb,
When I remember that first Easter morn,
When I know that my love is needed—

What is happiness?
These Whens are my happiness!

LIFE'S JOURNEY

Why are you here,
thou soul of man?
I am travelling—I am on a journey.

How long have you all been travelling?
That is hard to answer, for each of us travels
her own and his own duration.

Where are you going,
thou soul of man?
I have to travel until my Master calls me—
He will tell me to where I go,
for He alone has the key to the palace,
only He knows where that palace lies—
and He only can unlock the door.

What is your mission,
thou soul of man?
My mission is to do my Master's will, and love
all that I meet on life's journey.

When will you complete your mission,
thou soul of man?
I will complete my mission at my Master's will—
He will tell me when I should cross the border.

FREEDOM

Freedom is of the mind,
Freedom is of the body,
Freedom is of the spirit—the soul.

Why art thou disspirited within me,
oh, my soul?
Thou soul, mind and body
are always in conflict,
caged in a cocoon.
My soul needs freedom!

Thou must conquer the mind and the flesh—
the body—
only then can there be freedom—
what is freedom?

Freedom is not to do the things
we want to do, but,
freedom is the soul overcoming the
mind and the body.
Freedom is the soul accepting the
presence of the Divine.

OVERCOME—"THE VICTORY"

For you to win a battle,
there has to be a battle—
then comes the victory,
so then to have the victory
you must overcome.

To overcome the battle—
so then it is with life!
To overcome, you must have trials,
and temptations.

Victory cannot be gained without temptation,
but to overcome temptation—
that, then, is the victory.

THE ENEMY

It is said that man's greatest enemy is
the *self.*
There is a constant fight in man
between his body and his spirit.

The weapons of the body are the mind and the flesh.
The weapons of the spirit are the word of God—
the *truth*—
and prayer to his Creator through the Divine
Holy Spirit.

The enemy is the body, and the flesh is powerful,
But greater still is the power of the spirit.

The battle is won only when strategy of the spirit
is enforced by the strategy of
the *will* to conquer the
enemy, the self.

HOW

How do I live today—
Do I do all that I can do?

How do I think today—
do I think lovingly and kindly?

How do I eat today—
do I eat food for the stomach only,
    or do I eat food for the spirit too?

Live today on food of the spirit,
for the life we live today will determine
    the life we live tomorrow—
whether it will be a life of regret
    or a life of joy tomorrow.

Live today! How? As best we can—
so that tomorrow we can live also.

DIVINE GUIDANCE

Lord, Thou hast said that,
unless we become as little children,
we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
We want to be what You would have us be,
and we cannot be anything good unless You—
Your Divine Presence, be with us.

So Lord, do give us Thy Holy Spirit,
let us walk in the path of righteousness.
Let us feel Thy restraining hand
when we are about to go astray.

In the noise and bustle of everyday life,
help us to listen to your voice,
that we may know that You are near, always.

In the multitude of traffic,
and in the darkest night, help us to feel Thy warmth,
shielding us from all our fears—
our Divine Guide—
do give us Thy Divine Guidance!

SMILE

A smile is like food to the cheeks,
and like two links of metal that
connect the chain.

As it brings two hearts in unison,
and sets the soul on high,
it is like the lighted candle, placed
in a room where there was darkness—
and like the sun that shines after the rain
has fallen.
It sets the joys of life
and lifts the shades away.

TODAY

Today is the most important day of my life!
Why is it so important?
Some may ask.
It is most important because yesterday
was, but today *is*.

Today, I can make good for tomorrow.
Today is the most important day of
my life—
I will not do today what I have to
regret tomorrow.

Today, I can ask my Lord to erase the
errors of yesterday.
Today, I can plant good and humble seeds
for the future.
Today, I can receive forgiveness for my
transgressions of yesterday—
Today, I can do better than I did yesterday.

Today, I can ask someone to forgive the hurt that
I caused yesterday.
Yesterday is past, but today is here.
Today I can walk closer with My Lord.
Today is the most important day of my life—
I will not do today what I have to regret
tomorrow—
I will live *today*.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

What is Truth?
Truth is the word of God made flesh.
Jesus Christ is the son of the Living God.

Jesus Christ is Truth,
He is the Way
He is the Light
He is the Incarnate
He is the Holy Trinity
He is the Word
and
He is God.
this, then, is Truth—
because God declared it.

He sent his only begotten Son
into the world—
He took upon Himself the sin of mankind.
He suffered, bled, and died—
He rose again, that we may have life,
and have it more abundantly—
this, then, is Truth.

THE PROMISE

I promise that I will try my best to love
my Father, my Master,
and my friend.
To serve Him more dearly,
and trust Him more completely.

He has promised never to leave me,
nor forsake me—
but give me life without end
if only I will trust Him—
a life free from fear and worry—
and that promise He will keep.

Therefore, I must try to keep my
promise too.

WHAT IS LIFE?

Life is the seed that falls to the ground.
My Master carved a seed
and put it on the ground—the earth.
It was nurtured, tendered and provided for—
I am that seed.

The earth is my school—
each moment, I am to learn and grow.
My Master has provided me with everything for that growth—
the air I breathe, the food I eat,
the water I drink, and the clothes I wear—
therefore, I have my tools.

Whether I grow into a beautiful flower, and encourage
the growth of another seed,
or whether I grow into a tare, and hamper the growth of another—
the choice is mine to make.

TIME

Am I getting old,
    or am I already old?
No, I am not old—
it is time with its lightning swiftness
that has splashed its beams over me.

Time has flown—
time has spread its wings like a dove
    and engulfed me.
Time has not waited for my loitering—
    for my dithering . . .
always in a hurry—time must go!

I cannot hold it back,
but must go along—as fast as time goes.
Time, can you not rest a while,
And let me finish all I have to do?
No!
Well, let me do the best I can—
    for the best is good enough for me.

SOUL IN DESPAIR

Why art thou troubled,
oh, my soul?
Look beyond this world's distress
and concern.

lift up thine eyes and see the light
that brightens the day—
and know that there is hope beyond despair,
joy beyond recoil,
and faith—the answer.

Lift up thy spirit and smile—
for peace is the price for those who see,
and comfort for those
who believe.

WHO CAN?

Who can fathom the depth of the soul
that dies in Christ?
Who can soar to the apex of height of the soul
that dies in Christ?
Who can span the circumference of width of the soul
that dies in Christ?

or,

Who can measure the volume of the weight of joy
of the soul
that dies in Christ?

only the soul that dies in Christ!

THE BIBLE

The oldest book in all creation—
surely the best—
it is the only book that tells me truth,
the only book that shows me the way,
and the only book that gives me life.

It is full of history—
it is full of hope, love, joy, and peace.
When you want to find your roots—
just turn to the Bible.

It is the greatest of all earthly possessions—
throughout its pages, you will
know the past, the present, and the future—
it is the origin of love.

the Bible shows the way to life,
for it is life itself.

CHANGE

Time has changed, they say.
But has time really changed?
Time remains the same,
while conditions change.

Man changes his attitude—
his greed increases,
his ambition takes wings,
so that he cannot be contained!
His ideals are best to be desired—whatever
they may be.

Time has not changed—
time is a constant,
time is eternal,
so is our God—
there is no change in Him.

MY FRIEND

I have a friend who knows all my secrets—
He never is disloyal.
For, He never divulges my darkest error,
and puts me to shame,
or let me feel loathsome.
But, rather, He lifts me up when I feel despair—
just one touch, and my needs are filled—
Oh! What a friend.

Though I feel some terror,
He comforts me still—
He will never leave me, nor forsake me—
Oh! What a friend.

He once gave His life for me,
that I may have the tree of life.
I have never seen this friend
yet, I know He is real,
and I know He is a friend—
Oh! What a friend.

I THIRST

My soul thirsteth after Thee,
oh, Living Waters—
I am insatiable
fill me, oh, fill me—
    so that I be quenched.

No water from the spring or from the rocks
can fill this void—
oh, Living Waters!

Come pour, oh, pour Thyself on me—
then will I be satisfied,
oh, Living Waters—
pour, oh pour
        Thyself on me.

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

God is love,
God is kind,
and God loves justice.

God is impartial,
God is gentle,
and God loves you.

God is beautiful,
God loves meekness,
and God never changes.

God is faithful,
God is loyal,
God is friendly,
and God loves me.

WISDOM

I may have knowledge,
but of what dimension,
of what sphere
is that knowledge?

Knowledge can be knowledge merely of the intellect,
but real knowledge is knowledge of The Spirit.
Knowledge of The Spirit is wisdom—
wisdom supersedes all knowledge
wisdom supersedes all intellect
therefore, give me wisdom.

Lord, I pray Thee—
give me wisdom!

TO BE LOVED

How blessed a soul am I,
to be loved—
what treasured wealth have I,
to be loved—
should we consider our riches in terms of gold?
Or should we set our values in terms of
material or silver?

Love first came from Heaven—
it cannot be bought or sold for a price.
For love was freely given
when Christ gave His life for us.

Whosoever has the gift to love is of God's nature
and whosoever knows that he or she is loved
knows that God first loved him or her.

To be loved and to love—
is a gift from God!

THE LIGHT OF DAY

Oh, light of day,
thou hast overcome the darkness
of the night—
thou hast conquered!

thou hast not allowed the darkness
of the night
to take our breath away—
but hast allowed us to rise again,
from our slumber and our sleep.

Precious light!
Oh, precious light of day!
We welcome you, and we thank you—
Oh, light of day!

NIGHT

Oh, night, thou art dark,
yet thou art kind.
Thou givest balm to the troubled breast,
and takest the painful cares away—
thou dost replenish the emptiness,
and givest strength
instead of weariness.

From thy bosom many a man has gained esteem—
from toiling upward through thy hours.
Knowledge and power are sought through you—
when from thy stillness comes
repose of mind and soul.

Oh night, thou art dark,
yet thou art kind.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Each moment of life
is a moment to fulfill—
fulfill God's purpose of love—
love for Him, and love for our fellowmen.

Each moment of life
is a moment to grow—
grow to full dimension—
dimension of truth.

Truth that springs from the word of God
truth that is the only shield and weapon.

Each moment of life
is a moment to reach—
to reach the purpose of thanksgiving—
thanksgiving for the opportunity to live,
to live the life
which is the gift from God.

LAUGH

Laugh while you may,
for laughter lifts the soul—
it enlightens the spirit,
and gives a tonic to the heart.

Laugh while you may,
for laughter brightens the day-
it takes the gloom away,
and gives calm to your fellowmen.

Laugh while you may,
for laughter is like the sun
that shines on a dull day—
and takes the mist away.

Laugh! for God wants His children
to be happy, and not sad.
Laugh! For laughter is from a
grateful heart.

A TIME OF PREPARATION

Children of God,
let us know that we are here,
to prepare our hearts
and minds until the day
that examination appears.

Children of God,
let us study the course of truth—
the way and the light—
so that, when we have completed
the course,
we may be able to
wear our crown.

DEWDROPS

How beautiful are the dew drops
on the leaves—
like drops of diamonds, so they glitter
in the moonlight.

So bountiful are the shadows created among
the trees—
they are like fairies dancing
in the moonlight.
Dewdrops.
Beautiful dewdrops.

THE FALL

One falls—he gets hurt
but the greatest fall that one ever had
was the fall that Adam had.

That fall did not affect Adam only—
but it affected the whole human race.
That was the greatest fall of all—
when Adam fell.

A DISCOURSE

My soul longs for Thee,
oh Living God!
You are loving,
You are kind,
You will not discard a feeble one like me.

"No, you are not feeble—
you are strong!
but, you choose to do such wrongs.
because of that, you are afflicted."

Yes, but You are a merciful God, and full of compassion.
please stretch forth Thy hand and save me,
and I will ever praise Your name.
In the name of Your beloved Son—
my Lord and my Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ODE TO EARTH

Treasured earth—
thou art the mother of the universe.
From thy depth doth all creatures come—
all trees, all flowers,
all living things—all creeping things
all men and beasts.

It was from thee that man was formed,
and it is to thee that man doth return.
Man is, therefore, one with all flowers, trees,
rocks, and beasts—
the sand on the seashore—the fowls of
the air,—
all growing plants and shrubs.
We are one and all thine—
dear earth!
And you belong to God
oh, earth!

COMMITMENT

Father, I thank You that You have allowed me—
a feeble creature like me—to hear about You . . .
to know and acknowledge You.

I try even to imagine Your form, but I cannot—
that is too great for me.
Yet, Lord, even as did Samuel answer,
"Here am I, Lord,"
so say I, "Here am I, Lord."

Take this life, this vessel,
and use it to Thy will and purpose,
for into Thy hands—Thy hands only—
I commit this life, oh Lord.

THE TRIUMPH

Jesus said, "Lazarus is not dead,
but only sleepeth."
There is no death to one who believes!
Christ broke the greatest chain of all—
He broke the chain of death.
So, let triumphant songs be heard,
for Easter is the triumph—
the triumph that heralds life.

Death is expelled, and is replaced with life—
the life that abounds
and has conquered!
the battle is fought,
and the victory won—
here is the triumph!

REVERENCE

Oh, Lord, Thou art a mighty God—
Oh, let me trust You as long as You
lendeth me breath.
In the name of Your beloved Son, Jesus
I will trust You, my Father,
my Creator.
I will trust you—
Oh, I will trust you.

BEING

"God created man in His own image—
in His own image created He him."
How, then, can I hide anything from God?
My Heavenly Father knows the very depth of
my thought, even before it comes into
my mind.
How necessary it is for me, then, to serve Him well,
and be what He would like me to be—
for He knows my very Being.

ORDER

Where there is hate,
there is confusion;
where there is confusion,
there is evil;
and,
where there is evil—
Satan is present.

but—

where there is love,
there is order;
where there is order,
there is good;
where there is good—
the Divine is present.
and—
where the Divine is present,
all is well—
and there is order.

JESUS LIVES

The stone is rolled away,
come and see for yourself—
Jesus lives!

The chain of death is broken—
there is freedom to my soul!
Come and see the light—
there is no shadow anymore,
for the stone is rolled away—
and Jesus lives!

Your stone can be rolled away—
you, too, can be free!
You, too, can live—
for Jesus lives!

Come and see Him—
for He lives!

MY PRAYER

Dear Lord,
please give to us—
the knowledge to know and understand,
the wisdom to feel Thee near,
the strength to fight and dare,
the courage to stand firm and endure;
the power to overcome and conquer,
the faith to praise and glorify Thee
the love to thank Thee—
and—
the hope to see Thee in glory.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

God has a kingdom in the universe.—
the pledge of the kingdom is *to follow*.
The theme of the kingdom is *love*,
and the promise of the kingdom is *eternal life*.

(Continued from front flap)

this spiritually uplifting volume. We too can identify with Mrs. Johnson's yearning for tranquility of body and soul—for the everlasting peace to be earned only by those who serve the Lord.

About the Author

Iris J. Johnson was born in Jamaica, West Indies. She attended the Commercial Department, of the Kingston Technical School; was a Sunday School Teacher and was also active in the Boy Scouts. In 1960 she went to England to study Social Work and in 1964, she received a Certificate in Social Welfare from the City of Birmingham College of Commerce. While in England she was also active with the Girl Scouts.

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